Q&A for ...

March 18, 2015

FDOT Quantities / Summary Boxes – LDM Enhancements

Q: Where can I find the FDOT CADD Training Manuals?

A: All FDOT CADD Training Manuals, along with their datasets, are posted on the ECSO website: http://www.dot.state.fl.us/ecso/main/FDOTCaddTraining.shtm

Q: Can you use reference borders with the automatic method?

A: The actual placement with borders will not use referenced borders but manually creating Linked Data Manager (LDM) links so the table shows up over a referenced border does work.

Q: Question on border? Do we have option on what type of border cell to use? Structures vs Roadway?

A: This is really a non-issue. The structures summary box is not automated. The only time the border is placed automatically for you is when automating a summary box which places the appropriate roadway border. We will keep this in mind if the structures summary box is ever automated.

Q: Where did you created the MDB file?

A: The MDB file was created with D&C Manager and should be saved in your project discipline directory.

Q: Where do I go to get the updated version of LDM? My version is listed as 1.00.26.

A: The latest version was released with the FDOTSS2 MR3 and FDOTSS3.

Q: What is the oldest version of office that can be used with the current LDM version?

A: 2010 and higher with the latest versions. Another build is also available for 2007 (for now).

Q: How do you fix the word wrap problem? Example the word "Final" in the summary just shown.

A: You could widen the column or lower the font size.

Q: Should be the scale 1?

A: Yes, the scale can just be left at 1 when there are no plan view elements to be shown on the sheet. There is no need to scale the summary boxes.

Q: Why not create a custom paper size that matches the sheet display area and have the column formatting all in word?

A: That is what we will try to do with the files delivered with the FDOT Software Suite.

Q: How can you change the font size in Word to work with LDM to produce the standard FDOT text size?

A: Using the FDOT fonts, set the text size to 8 to get the standard 0.07. Font sizes 10 and 12 can also be used for the larger font sizes needed in table headings.

Q: What font type should we use in Word for the general notes?

A: The FDOT font. It has already been set to this font in the Word document, ProjectNotes.docx.

Q: So what do you do if your text document would exceed a single plan sheet?

A: You could create a second file or insert enough blank space to give you a blank column so you have room to insert a second sheet border. This way the edges of the border would be in the blank column.

Q: Where do we get the Word document from?

A: Some templates are provided in LDM, but you could manually link any Word file.

A: It is created with Linked Data Manager. When you create a new link from template, select Word Documents in the drop down menu and select the desired template. You will then be prompted to save the file to your project directory.

Q: Can you use Word documents through LDM with SS2?

A: Yes. If you have FDOTSS2 MR3 installed.

Q: For the notes in Word docs, what alignment would you recommend?

A: Typically Left Top for notes, but it really depends on the data and how you want to see it.

Q: If I use the quantity rounder and process XML file, where can I find the quantity .xml to process?

A: You export this file from Quantity Manager.

Q: Where can I find the quantity .xml file?

A: The quantity.xml file demonstrated in the webinar was generated from Quantity Manager.

Q: What happens when first using SS2 and then change to SS3; "the scale goes wild"?

A: The scale should not be affected.

Q: On the Signing and Pavement Marking summary sheet, you had columns that the text was overlapping. Why?

A: There is an issue with the Windows Display settings. The columns in the spreadsheet were being interpreted as being narrower and therefore created the word wrap. I'm looking into this to be sure the correct version of the file is released with the software.

Q: When using LDM with a soil survey sheet, how do you get the numbers to stop auto wrapping and have the notes at the bottom extend the length of the sheet?

A: I am looking into this. After talking with the developer, the issue with the notes may be a corruption in the spreadsheet. The sheet was created using the old standard cell created for the soil survey sheet. I will look into either modifying the text size or the column widths to accommodate the additional length of characters.

Q: We have had a comment from a reviewer in D7 that we are supposed to be using the conservative method. This is different from what you are saying now. What should we do?

A: The nearest method is what they are looking for. We have worked with D7 on this.

Q: Jimmie, We agree that the setting in the QM.cfg should be to the nearest. Could you confirm that the previous setting defaulted to conservative? It's been a while since we discussed this.

A: Yes, it was set to conservative.